

TRIBUTE TO HADASSAH

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 90th anniversary of an outstanding organization: Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America.

Many Americans recognize Hadassah as the premier organization for Jewish women. Others know of its many achievements in health care and social justice. But few realize that Hadassah is both the largest women's and the largest Jewish organization in the United States, with over 300,000 members. Every single Member of Congress represents members of Hadassah.

It has been my distinct pleasure and privilege to have had a long and fruitful professional relationship with Hadassah. When I first began working on genetic discrimination issues in 1995, Hadassah stepped forward to pledge its support. At my first press conference, Hadassah was one of just four organizations that endorsed that first genetic non-discrimination bill. Today, this initiative has the support of over 200 organizations—but Hadassah is still leading the way as a key player.

Indeed, I have found Hadassah to be among the most consistent and persistent allies any legislator could ever hope for. When Hadassah decides that an issue is a priority, it will work ceaselessly until its goal is achieved. Its members are well educated, savvy, and tenacious. Its leadership is focused, smart, and sophisticated. Few organizations are as effective.

Through our partnership on issues including genetic discrimination, women's health, and colorectal cancer, my respect and admiration for Hadassah has only grown. In 1998, I was proud to receive the Hadassah Nassau Region's Myrtle Wreath Achievement Award for "outstanding achievement in all areas of public service and . . . dedication to improving the health and well being of all Americans." This award hangs in a place of honor in my office. I was equally proud to be named a Lifetime Member of Hadassah for my work on issues important to their members.

Perhaps Hadassah's greatest achievement is the Hadassah Medical Organization, a network of 2 hospitals, 90 outpatient clinics, and numerous community health centers throughout Israel. These facilities provide state-of-the-art health care to 600,000 patients each year, regardless of race, religion, or creed. They often treat the most critically wounded victims of the region's ongoing conflicts.

I would like to invite my colleagues to join me in saluting the 90th anniversary of Hadassah. May Hadassah and its members enjoy another 90 years of activism.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEONARD GREGORY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Leonard

Gregory and thank him for his extraordinary contributions to both the Pueblo Chieftain and the greater community of Pueblo, Colorado. Len's life-long dedication to the pursuit of excellence as a columnist and editor at the Pueblo Chieftain is matched only by the level of integrity and honesty with which he has conducted himself each and every day in that pursuit. He will always be remembered as an employee with the utmost dedication and talent, and will continue to be known as a leader in his community. As he celebrates his retirement, let it be known that it is a great loss not only for the paper, but also for a town that has relied on him for his wisdom and insight throughout his extraordinary tenure.

As a 38-year employee at the Pueblo Chieftain, Len's dedication, work ethic and unparalleled skill as a newsman ensured his unfettered rise through the ranks of the organization. He began his career in 1964 as a composing room employee, and then transferred to the newsroom in 1972 as a courthouse and general assignment reporter. In 1988, he was promoted from city editor to managing editor, and in 1999 was promoted to executive editor, where he oversaw the newsroom operation, served on the editorial board and represented the newspaper in the Pueblo community.

Since he began writing for the Chieftain, Len has distinguished himself as much more than an average employee. He has received numerous awards from the Colorado Press Association and the Colorado Associated Press Editors and Reporters for his column, which he began writing in 1979. He was named outstanding Alumnus by the University of Southern Colorado Alumni Association, and Newspaper Person of the Year by the Southern Colorado Press Club. Len's distinguished service and dedication is not limited to his professional endeavors, as he has proven himself an active leader within the community as well. He is currently a member of a number of organizations, including the Pueblo School District 60 Foundation Board, the University of Southern Colorado's Foundation Board and President's Advisory Council, and the Holy Family Parish Finance Council.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear that Len Gregory is a man of unparalleled dedication and commitment to both his professional and philanthropic endeavors. It is his unrelenting passion for each and every thing he does, as well as his spirit of honesty and integrity with which he has always conducted himself, that I wish to bring before this body of Congress. Len Gregory is a remarkable man, who has achieved extraordinary things in his career and in his community, and I would like to extend to him my congratulations on his retirement and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

PROCLAMATION FOR GARY GRETARSSON

HON. STEVE ISRAEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize one of New York's outstanding young men, Gary Gretarsson. The Boy Scouts of his troop honored him as they recognized his achievements by giving him the Eagle Scout honor on Friday, December 7, 2001.

Since the beginning of this century, the Boy Scouts of America have provided thousands of boys and young men each year with the opportunity to make friends, explore new ideas, and develop leadership skills while learning self-reliance and teamwork.

This award is presented only to those who possess the qualities that make our nation great: commitment to excellence, hard work, and genuine love of community service. Becoming an Eagle Scout is an extraordinary award with which only the finest Boy Scouts are honored. To earn the award—the highest advancement rank in Scouting—a Boy Scout must demonstrate proficiency in the rigorous areas of leadership, service, and outdoor skills.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating the recipients of these awards, as their activities are indeed worthy of praise. Their leadership benefits our community and they serve as role models for their peers.

Also, we must not forget the unsung heroes, who continue to devote a large part of their lives to make all this possible. Therefore, I salute the families, scout leaders, and countless others who have given generously of their time and energy in support of scouting.

It is with great pride that I recognize the achievements of Mr. Gretarsson, and bring the attention of Congress to this successful young man on his day of recognition. Congratulations to Gary and his family.

IN HONOR OF NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY STUDENTS AT CONNER HIGH SCHOOL, HEBRON, KY

HON. KEN LUCAS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 23, 2002

Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of some outstanding students at Conner High School in Hebron, in Kentucky's Fourth Congressional District. Specifically, I salute members of the school's chapter of the National Honor Society for their award-winning community service projects in recent years.

Most recently, Conner's honor students tackled an issue that we have addressed here in the House as well—the needs of America's homeless veterans. The honor students worked with a grocery bag manufacturer, Duro Standard Products; a local grocer, Flick's Foods; and Wal-Mart Stores, Incorporated; to have information about the Heather Renee French Foundation for Veterans printed on 21 million grocery bags.

You may recall that as Miss America 2000, Kentucky's Heather Renee French Henry made increasing our awareness of the needs of America's homeless veterans her mission, and came to Washington to campaign for the homeless veterans legislation we passed last month.

Now, thanks to the efforts of the National Honor Society members at Conner High School and some civic-minded business people, many people are learning about the needs of homeless veterans and Heather Renee French Henry's organization. Specifically, I'd like to recognize the students—Ashley Tepe, Jennifer Golatzki, Amanda Kordenbrock, McKenzie Ryle, and Katie Stacy, their National